

THE Pacific Commercial Advertiser

A MORNING PAPER.

WALTER G. SMITH EDITOR

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LEGISLATURE VS. PRESS.

For the information of those members of the Legislature who want to interfere with the local press by barring it from the public sessions of the Legislature, we shall remark that the organic law of the nation guarantees the freedom of the press and if that freedom is interfered with in any other way than that provided by the Constitution itself, a Federal injunction would probably lie, even against a Legislature. At least such is the opinion of good lawyers.

The Legislature, knowing our own Organic Act, should be aware that its power to discipline outsiders for disrespect is confined under Chapter 1, Sec. 25, to offences committed "in the presence" of the House. Opinions published about individual members of the Legislature do not come into this category. They are privileged by law, subject, of course, to actions for libel.

It is within the province of the Hawaiian Legislature to debar reporters and other outsiders from attending the executive sessions of its houses; and that body may refuse a reporter desk room or the right to appear on the floor; but it can not eject him from public sessions because of his being a representative of the press and while he is orderly in his behavior, without getting into trouble with the American Constitution.

The Advertiser begs leave to say that it intends to publish the proceedings of the present Legislature until the last day of the session, and to make such comments upon men and methods and upon the work of the session as its duty to the public seems to require.

STATEHOOD AND SCHOOLS.

The Legislature is in favor of Statehood for Hawaii; yet it proposes to take a course which, by lowering the standards of education here, would make such a change of political status impossible.

States are not made because Territories exist which have a sufficient number of inhabitants for State purposes. The Territory of New Mexico has long possessed a larger population than the State of Nevada; but that population, because mongrel and badly educated, has had no chance for half a century to get into the inner circle of the Union. Thanks to the later work of its schools, New Mexico is just beginning to see a light ahead, but if it were true that the Territory had begun to impoverish its schools, by starving out its teachers, that light would soon be snuffed out and there would be no boon of Statehood to come.

If Hawaii ever got a chance to be a State the reason would be found in the literacy of the people here rather than in their numbers. A well-educated, thoroughly-Americanized population could hardly be kept out; but a quarter-educated, stupid and irresponsible crowd, however numerous—and the more of them the worse for them—could not get in.

The life of the land is established in knowledge; and Statehood, if it ever comes, will be due to sound general education; primarily to good schools, well maintained.

ANOTHER COMMISSION CITY.

An Atlanta (Ga.) dispatch to the Memphis Commercial Appeal says:

ATLANTA, Ga., March 6.—The general committee appointed to report to the city council upon the advisability of calling a referendum vote upon the proposition to apply for a change of city charter which will authorize the establishment of a commission form of municipal government, such as is in vogue in Washington, D. C., Galveston, Houston and other Texas cities and elsewhere, has reported unanimous agreement to the plan.

The committee further recommends that committees be appointed to bring about the change in city government right away.

The committee suggests that a subcommittee be appointed to hear from the citizens as to their views upon the scheme.

The recommendation is made that all city officers and employees of the city be chosen and removed by the commissioners, except a comptroller; that the comptroller be elected by the commission for the stated term of years.

The spread of the commission idea in city government is becoming very noticeable. It is a measure of economy which rich populations are eager to adopt, and its features might well be studied by the legislative bodies of poor populations. Probably the City and County of Honolulu could save fifty per cent of its present expense bill and get better government by a system like that of Houston.

After raising a hue and cry over the commission idea, on the false assumption that the members of a commission would necessarily hail from the mainland, the Bulletin takes up with the idea that officials like judges, district attorneys, et cetera, should come from the mainland by preference. Of course that paper has no reason for that policy; it has no reason for anything, including its own existence; but it is profoundly convinced that it ought to object to anything that the other papers want. Its present flop simply insults the people of Hawaii by suggesting that they are not competent or patriotic enough to fill the Federal offices on this soil and urges them to stand aside for better men—unless the latter come as a commission.

It is satisfactory to know that the coming second judge of the United States Court is personally worthy of the place; but the precedent made by his appointment may turn out badly for Hawaii. Sooner or later every Territory in the West has had to lay down the doctrine of home rule and stick to it. Mr. Towse informs us that Wyoming had to make this fight just as Arizona and New Mexico did. So did Idaho and Washington, before they became States. Hawaii can no more afford to again prostrate itself under such an infliction as it endured in 1900-01, than it could to accept a government like that of American Samoa.

The only satisfactory place for a naval base in Southern California waters is San Diego. San Pedro is an unsheltered breakwater harbor on a small scale, while San Diego has a natural harbor which, in area, is almost a match for Pearl Harbor. It is protected from wind and from the near approach of hostile vessels by Point Loma; and the place is already partially fortified. All boards that have examined the relative merits of San Diego and San Pedro for naval purposes have decided that San Diego is the only place of the two worth considering. The one objection—the insufficient depth of the water on the bar—may be easily remedied.

If any reporter is put out of the halls of the Legislature for exercising his right of criticism in print, whether the criticism is deemed courteous or not, that body will soon be mixed up in a pretty test case. Evidently some of the members of the House imagine that Hawaii is still a monarchy and that they are running it with a big stick.

Pasadena is a poor place for aeronautics. If a balloon goes far south, it will land on the inhospitable soil of territorial Mexico; if it goes east and crosses the mountains, it will have a formidable desert under it; westward lies the ocean. It is not often that the wind blows from the south at this time of the year in California, so that the direction a balloon would naturally take is away from safety.

Prince Hilko, whose death is announced from Russia, was the Czar's great railway builder. His last noted feat was the construction of a loop of the Transiberian railroad around Lake Baikal during the war with Japan—an engineering task of magnitude, especially during the season in which it was performed. Prince Hilko began his railroading in America as a fireman of a locomotive.

In some of the States, also in England, it has been held that one who discharges a firearm or hurls a missile into a house, with intent to injure a person therein, may be convicted of burglary. Section 2946 of the Revised Laws of Hawaii seems to be in line with other advanced communities in the respect noted. But what about the Atcherley case?

If the House has a rule abridging the liberty of the press, it had better abolish it before it runs up against the United States Constitution.

AMUSEMENTS

Adult Lilliputians, graduates of the Pollard companies, are heading towards Honolulu from Australia, their original home, and from New York, to organize one of the strongest and most versatile companies ever prepared for a circuit by Mr. Pollard. On April 10 the company will make its initial appearance at the Opera House under the direction of Mr. W. D. Adams, presenting the Charity Ball, one of the catchiest dramas of the American stage. Teddy McNamara, the clever comedian now playing with the Lilliputians at the Opera House, graduates at the close of the season next week and will go into the adult company as its youngest member.

The company will appear in absolutely new costumes and there will be new scenery for each play. The plans of manager Alf Goulding contemplate presentations of musical drama on Mondays and Tuesdays of each week and on Thursdays and Saturdays vaudeville with musical sketches presenting dances with show girls as a feature.

Following "The Charity Ball," the company will present "Checkers," with its famous race scene; then the "Man on the Box," the "Bishop's Carriage" and "The Devil," which is now the rage of the mainland. The Australian members of the company who have been rehearsing in the Colonies will arrive here on the Aorangi, March 31, and the others will arrive shortly from New York. Willie Pollard, a Lilliputian graduate, who has been with the Frawleys, as leading juvenile for three years, will come here from the mainland. The leading lady will be Eva Moore. She has been with Williamson's stock company in Australia for the past year and is not only a gifted actress but a beautiful singer. She was in Honolulu many years ago with the first Lilliputian company that appeared here.

The company to come here in April is known as the Pollard No. 1 company. The management has been endeavoring to form this company for some time against strong competition, and only last week was Mr. Pollard able to announce that the company would play here. After its engagement here, which is to be four weeks, a tour of the principal American and Canadian cities will follow. Pollard's Lilliputians have made a place for themselves in Honolulu, the present season proving far more successful than the agents and managers had anticipated. All the principal favorites graduated from the Lilliputians in the past sixteen years compose the Pollard No. 1 company. The four comedians during this time and who will be with the new company are Alf Goulding, Willie Pollard, Jack Pollard and Teddy McNamara. The first one has been with the Pollards since he was six years old, holding the same position as Teddy McNamara now holds. Goulding is now stage manager of the present Lilliputians, the man responsible for every gesture made by the little mimmers. Eva Moore is eighteen years of age, and is naturally musical and graceful and exhibits rare dignity, distinction and charm. For a year she has been playing in Williamson's Merry Widow company. The cast will include Harold Fraser, Fred Bendloss, Frank Cherry, Charley Chester, Emmie Davis, Ada Hind, Eva Pollard.

"Lady Slavey" Is Good.

"Lady Slavey," replete with musical gems and ballet figures, scored a success at the Opera House last evening, under the talented ministrations of the members of the Lilliputian company. There were many individual successes, and the large number of favorites merited applause from a well-filled house. Master Donaghey, in a character part of an old gentleman, showed rare talent which placed him well up in the list of successful mimmers. Freddie Heintz, as usual, carried off honors in his role of a drawing English lord.

Miss Irene Finlay, whose male impersonations are always quite true to life, was at her best, and the Misses Pollard, Miss Hind and Miss Lily Bull filled important roles. The smallest Miss Pollard took off the masquerading lady of fashion in a captivating manner. Teddy McNamara made fun at all stages. The play is a good one, and will be presented again tonight and tomorrow, and will be followed by perhaps one of the prettiest, most

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Ehlers

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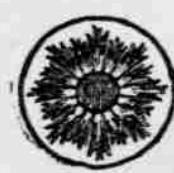
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